REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-44 remain active in the application (it is noted that the indication in the Office Action that only Claims 24-44 are active in the application is erroneous).

Claims 24-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by the U.S. patent to Taillon et al. Applicants are therefore herein submitting a certified English translation of the German priority application 19502308.0. Applicants submit that their priority date of January 26, 1995 has therefore been perfected, and so the rejection of paragraph three is moot.

Concerning paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the claims have been amended to recite "soldering" rather that "brazing." Basis for soldering can be found for example at steps d,f,g,h,i and j on columns three and four of the parent U.S. patent 5,557,837. It is further noted that brazing is a type of soldering ("braze...: to solder with a nonferrous alloy that melts at a lower temperature than that of the metals be joined"; Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 1977). Applicants therefore submit that all of the claims find support in the parent application, and so are entitled to the priority date of January 26, 1995.

Respectfully submitted,

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Please amend Claims 27, 30-37, 39, and 41-42 as follows:

27. (Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein said removing said defective electrical and fluidic connector comprises the step of heating said defective electrical and fluidic connector to soften an existing [brazing] soldering alloy securing said defective electrical and fluidic connector to said electro-fluid conductor such that said removing step is facilitated.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein said securing step (a) comprises the step of [brazing] soldering said first member to said electro-fluidic conductor using a first [brazing] alloy.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein prior to said [brazing] soldering step, said securing step (a) includes placing said first [brazing] alloy around said end portion of said electro-fluidic conductor.

32. (Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said matably connecting step (b) comprises [brazing] soldering said first member to said second member using a second [brazing] alloy having a lower melting temperature than a melting temperature of said first [brazing] alloy.

33. (Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein said connecting step (b) comprises heating said first member and said second member to a temperature at least as high as the melting temperature of the second [brazing] alloy but lower than the melting temperature of the first [brazing] alloy such that the first [brazing] alloy does not melt during said connecting step (b).

34. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein said first member has at least one groove on an outer surface thereof, and wherein said method further comprises inserting a third [brazing] alloy into said at least one groove such that said matably connecting step (b) comprises [brazing] soldering said first member to said second member using said third [brazing] alloy.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said matably connecting step (b) comprises inserting said first member flush into said second member prior to said [brazing] soldering of said first member to said second member.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein said method includes placing a ribbon alloy on an outer surface of said first member after said inserting of said third [brazing] alloy into said at least one groove and prior to said inserting said first member into said second member, said ribbon alloy securing said first member to said second member as a result of said [brazing] soldering of said first member to said second member.

37. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein said matably connecting step (b) comprises inserting said first member into said second member and [brazing] soldering said first member to said second member.

39. (Amended) The method of claim 37, wherein said method further comprises applying pressure that forces said first member into said second member during said [brazing] soldering of said first member to said second member.

41. (Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein said step of connecting said electrical conductor and said fluidic conductor to said electrical and fluidic connector comprises [brazing] soldering said electrical conductor and said fluidic conductor to said electrical and fluidic connector.

42. (Amended) The method of claim 41, wherein said fluidic conductor and said electrical conductor comprise a single conductive pipe such that said step of connecting said electrical conductor and said fluidic conductor to said electrical and fluidic conductor comprises [brazing] soldering said single conductive pipe to said electrical and fluidic connector.